

Ohio River Islands

National Wildlife Refuge

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress



Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV)
Senator John Rockefeller IV (D-WV)
1st, 2nd, 3rd districts

Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA)
Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA)
4th and 14th districts

Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
Senator Jim Bunning (R-KY)
4th, 5th districts

Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH)
Senator George Voinovich (R-OH)
2nd and 6th districts

Contact

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Profile

Established: 1990
Current acres: 3,366
Proposed total acres: 12,000
Staff: 6
FY 2003 budget: \$664,589*
2003 volunteer hours: 1,082
2003 visitation: 51,748
*Budget includes \$185,277 for deferred maintenance and equipment

Purpose

The Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge was established for the development, advancement, management, conservation and protection of fish and wildlife resources.

Public Use Notes

- Twenty-two islands and three mainland properties are open to public use
- All refuge property is open daily
- Universally accessible trail and wildlife viewing blind
- Hunting for deer, waterfowl, rabbit and squirrel
- Excellent fishing opportunities
- Wildlife observation and environmental education

Management Activities

- Bottomland hardwoods reforestation for migratory birds
- Exotic species control
- Protection and management of habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Erosion control and riparian restoration through native vegetation plantings

Highlights

The refuge offers area residents and visitors the "wild Ohio" within a busy industrial and navigation corridor.

Over 200 species of birds use the refuge, many relying on the islands during migration as places to feed and rest. Bald eagles are frequent winter visitors.

Two federally listed endangered mussels are among over 40 species found on the refuge.

The refuge works in partnership with state agencies and other groups to monitor the zebra mussel invasion in the Ohio River.

Issues

Industrial discharges, sediment, erosion and commercial navigation impact refuge resources.

Hunting regulations restrict the use of dogs in order to protect refuge wildlife from excessive disturbance.

Zebra mussels threaten native mussels on the refuge, including two endangered species.

Closure of the refuge at night restricts nighttime bank fishing.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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